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DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT & BUDGET
LANSING

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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March Jobless Rates Decline in All Michigan Regional Labor Markets

Lansing – Seasonally unadjusted unemployment rates in March fell in all of the state's 17 major labor market areas, according to the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget. Total employment levels advanced in most regions over the month, while workforce totals declined in nearly all areas.

"March 2017 was a favorable month for Michigan's local labor markets," said Jason Palmer, director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information & Strategic Initiatives. "Employment levels were mainly up and jobless rates moved downward."

Between February and March, unemployment rates decreased in all 17 major regions, with drops ranging from -0.6 to -1.7 percentage points. The median over-the-month rate reduction was a full percentage point. The largest jobless rate cuts in March were displayed in the Northeast Lower Michigan region (-1.7), the Niles-Benton Harbor Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) (-1.3), and the Bay City MSA (-1.2). In March, nine state regions posted rates at or below the national seasonally unadjusted unemployment rate of 4.6 percent.

Unemployment Rates Down Over Year

Since March 2016, jobless rates fell in all 17 regions, with a median decrease of -0.6 of a percentage point. The largest over-the-year rate reductions were registered in the Muskegon MSA (-0.8), the Northwest Lower Michigan region (-0.8), and the Jackson MSA (-0.7).

Total Employment Up Over Month, Year

From February to March, total employment rose modestly in 15 regions, with a minor median advance of +0.4 percent. The most pronounced over-the-month employment gains were shown in the Detroit-Warren-Dearborn MSA (+0.9%), the Jackson MSA (+0.7%), and the Muskegon MSA (+0.7%). Total employment declined very slightly in March in the Lansing-East Lansing MSA and the Northwest Lower Michigan region.

Since March 2016 total employment rose in 11 areas, declined in five, and was unchanged in the Bay City MSA. Over-the-year employment gains ranged from +0.1 to +2.2 percent with a median hike of +1.1 percent. The largest increases since last March were posted in the Detroit-Warren-Dearborn MSA (+2.2%), the Grand Rapids-Wyoming MSA (+2.0%), and the Kalamazoo-Portage MSA (+1.6%). Over-the-year employment reductions were limited to a half percent or less with the largest declines recorded in the Upper Peninsula (-0.5%), and the Saginaw MSA (-0.4%).

Note: Labor force, employment, and unemployment data for 2012 through 2016 have been recently revised. Payroll job data by industry was revised for 2015 and 2016. Estimates for January, February and March 2017 are not comparable to previously released data. For newly revised estimates, go to www.michigan.gov/lmi or call 313-456-3090.

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Labor Force Levels Down Over Month, Mixed Over Year

During March, workforce levels decreased in 16 state regions, while the labor force level in the Detroit-Warren-Dearborn MSA edged up slightly by +0.1 percent. Labor force reductions over the month ranged from -0.2 to -1.7 percent with a median decline of -0.7 percent.

Between March 2016 and March 2017 labor force levels declined in eight regions, increased in seven areas, and were unchanged in the Northeast Lower Michigan region and the Niles-Benton Harbor MSA. The largest workforce reductions since March 2016 were recorded in the Upper Peninsula

(-1.1%), and the Midland MSA (-1.0%), while the biggest gains occurred in the Detroit-Warren-Dearborn MSA (+1.7%), and the Grand Rapids-Wyoming MSA (+1.4%).

Widespread Gains Push March Payroll Jobs Upward

The monthly survey of employers indicated that seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs in Michigan increased by 19,000 or 0.5 percent in March to 4,327,000. Moderate over-the-month job advances were posted in trade, transportation and utilities (+5,000), construction (+3,000), professional and business services (+3,000), and leisure and hospitality services (+3,000). The state's remaining major sectors recorded mostly small job gains.

In March, payroll jobs rose in 13 of the state's 14 major metropolitan areas. Regional job gains ranged from +0.1 percent to +1.0 percent with a median advance of +0.6 percent. The Monroe (+1.0%), Muskegon (+1.0%), and Jackson (+0.9%) MSAs stood out as having the largest over-the-month job increases. Jobs in the Bay City MSA were essentially unchanged in March.

Since March 2016, seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs rose statewide by 77,000 or 1.8 percent. Nearly all major industry sectors in the state recorded job gains since March 2016, and were led by increases in professional and business services (+20,000), education and health services (+11,000), government (+10,000), leisure and hospitality services (+9,000), manufacturing (+8,000), and construction (+7,000).

Since March 2016, payroll jobs moved up in ten of the 14 Michigan metro areas. Area increases ranged from +0.3 to +2.6 percent, with a median gain of +1.2 percent. Notable over-the-year regional advances were recorded in the Grand Rapids-Wyoming (+2.6%), Kalamazoo-Portage (+2.3%), Ann Arbor (+2.1%), Detroit-Warren-Dearborn (+2.1%), and Lansing-East Lansing (+2.1%) MSAs. Over-the-year payroll jobs were essentially flat in the Jackson, Muskegon, and Saginaw MSAs, while payroll jobs declined in the Monroe MSA (-0.5%).

County Jobless Rates Down Over Month, Year

All of Michigan's 83 counties recorded jobless rate reductions in March, with a median decline of -1.1 percentage points. Since March 2016, unemployment rates fell in 82 counties, with a median decrease of -0.7 of a percentage point. The jobless rate in Cheboygan County rose slightly by +0.3 of a percentage point over the year.

*Note: Data in this release is **not seasonally adjusted**. As a result, employment and unemployment trends may differ from previously released Michigan seasonally adjusted data.*

A breakdown of seasonally unadjusted March workforce estimates for Michigan and its 17 major labor market areas follows, along with a listing of county jobless rates for March.

Note to Editors: Please ensure that the source for state unemployment rates reads "Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget."

(more)

Page 3, March Rates

	<u>Mar-16</u>	<u>Feb-17</u>	<u>Mar-17</u>	% change month	% change year
ANN ARBOR MSA (Washtenaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	192,800	194,900	194,600	-0.2%	0.9%
Total Employment	186,400	188,000	189,100	0.6%	1.4%
Unemployment	6,400	6,800	5,500	-19.1%	-14.1%
Rate (percent)	3.3	3.5	2.8		

Contact: Leonidas Murembya, DTMB Regional Economic Analyst (517) 841-5634

	<u>Mar-16</u>	<u>Feb-17</u>	<u>Mar-17</u>	% change month	% change year
BATTLE CREEK MSA (Calhoun County)					
Civilian Labor Force	64,600	65,000	64,700	-0.5%	0.2%
Total Employment	61,400	61,500	61,800	0.5%	0.7%
Unemployment	3,200	3,500	2,900	-17.1%	-9.4%
Rate (percent)	5.0	5.3	4.5		

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	<u>Mar-16</u>	<u>Feb-17</u>	<u>Mar-17</u>	% change month	% change year
BAY CITY MSA (Bay County)					
Civilian Labor Force	52,200	52,400	51,800	-1.1%	-0.8%
Total Employment	49,000	48,900	49,000	0.2%	0.0%
Unemployment	3,200	3,500	2,900	-17.1%	-9.4%
Rate (percent)	6.1	6.7	5.5		

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	<u>Mar-16</u>	<u>Feb-17</u>	<u>Mar-17</u>	% change month	% change year
DETROIT-WARREN-DEARBORN MSA (Data in thousands) (Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Lapeer, Livingston, St. Clair counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	2,057	2,089	2,091	0.1%	1.7%
Total Employment	1,943	1,967	1,985	0.9%	2.2%
Unemployment	114	122	106	-13.1%	-7.0%
Rate (percent)	5.5	5.9	5.1		

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	<u>Mar-16</u>	<u>Feb-17</u>	<u>Mar-17</u>	% change month	% change year
FLINT MSA (Genesee County)					
Civilian Labor Force	183,500	183,900	182,600	-0.7%	-0.5%
Total Employment	172,600	172,100	172,700	0.3%	0.1%
Unemployment	10,900	11,800	9,900	-16.1%	-9.2%
Rate (percent)	5.9	6.4	5.4		

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(more)

Page 4, March Rates

	<u>Mar-16</u>	<u>Feb-17</u>	<u>Mar-17</u>	% change month	% change year
GRAND RAPIDS - WYOMING MSA					
(Barry, Kent, Montcalm, Ottawa counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	565,400	575,800	573,300	-0.4%	1.4%
Total Employment	544,800	554,400	555,500	0.2%	2.0%
Unemployment	20,600	21,400	17,800	-16.8%	-13.6%
Rate (percent)	3.7	3.7	3.1		

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	<u>Mar-16</u>	<u>Feb-17</u>	<u>Mar-17</u>	% change month	% change year
JACKSON MSA					
(Jackson County)					
Civilian Labor Force	74,900	74,600	74,200	-0.5%	-0.9%
Total Employment	71,100	70,500	71,000	0.7%	-0.1%
Unemployment	3,800	4,000	3,200	-20.0%	-15.8%
Rate (percent)	5.1	5.4	4.4		

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	<u>Mar-16</u>	<u>Feb-17</u>	<u>Mar-17</u>	% change month	% change year
KALAMAZOO - PORTAGE MSA					
(Kalamazoo and Van Buren counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	168,300	171,100	169,800	-0.8%	0.9%
Total Employment	160,600	162,800	163,100	0.2%	1.6%
Unemployment	7,700	8,300	6,700	-19.3%	-13.0%
Rate (percent)	4.6	4.8	4.0		

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	<u>Mar-16</u>	<u>Feb-17</u>	<u>Mar-17</u>	% change month	% change year
LANSING - EAST LANSING MSA					
(Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	247,400	251,800	250,000	-0.7%	1.1%
Total Employment	237,200	240,900	240,800	0.0%	1.5%
Unemployment	10,100	10,900	9,200	-15.6%	-8.9%
Rate (percent)	4.1	4.3	3.7		

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	<u>Mar-16</u>	<u>Feb-17</u>	<u>Mar-17</u>	% change month	% change year
MIDLAND MSA					
(Midland County)					
Civilian Labor Force	41,300	41,200	40,900	-0.7%	-1.0%
Total Employment	39,100	38,900	39,000	0.3%	-0.3%
Unemployment	2,100	2,300	1,900	-17.4%	-9.5%
Rate (percent)	5.2	5.6	4.6		

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(more)

	<u>Mar-16</u>	<u>Feb-17</u>	<u>Mar-17</u>	% change month	% change year
MONROE MSA					
(Monroe County)					
Civilian Labor Force	77,300	77,600	77,200	-0.5%	-0.1%
Total Employment	73,700	73,300	73,600	0.4%	-0.1%
Unemployment	3,600	4,300	3,500	-18.6%	-2.8%
Rate (percent)	4.7	5.6	4.6		

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	<u>Mar-16</u>	<u>Feb-17</u>	<u>Mar-17</u>	% change month	% change year
MUSKEGON MSA					
(Muskegon County)					
Civilian Labor Force	77,600	77,200	76,900	-0.4%	-0.9%
Total Employment	73,100	72,700	73,200	0.7%	0.1%
Unemployment	4,400	4,500	3,700	-17.8%	-15.9%
Rate (percent)	5.7	5.9	4.9		

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	<u>Mar-16</u>	<u>Feb-17</u>	<u>Mar-17</u>	% change month	% change year
NILES - BENTON HARBOR MSA					
(Berrien County)					
Civilian Labor Force	73,300	73,900	73,300	-0.8%	0.0%
Total Employment	69,400	69,600	69,900	0.4%	0.7%
Unemployment	3,800	4,300	3,400	-20.9%	-10.5%
Rate (percent)	5.2	5.9	4.6		

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	<u>Mar-16</u>	<u>Feb-17</u>	<u>Mar-17</u>	% change month	% change year
SAGINAW MSA					
(Saginaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	89,300	89,000	88,600	-0.4%	-0.8%
Total Employment	84,200	83,400	83,900	0.6%	-0.4%
Unemployment	5,100	5,700	4,700	-17.5%	-7.8%
Rate (percent)	5.8	6.3	5.3		

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	<u>Mar-16</u>	<u>Feb-17</u>	<u>Mar-17</u>	% change month	% change year
UPPER PENINSULA LMA					
(15 counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	141,100	141,000	139,600	-1.0%	-1.1%
Total Employment	129,900	129,000	129,300	0.2%	-0.5%
Unemployment	11,200	12,100	10,300	-14.9%	-8.0%
Rate (percent)	7.9	8.5	7.4		

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(more)

Page 6, March Rates

	<u>Mar-16</u>	<u>Feb-17</u>	<u>Mar-17</u>	% change month	% change year
NORTHEAST LOWER MICHIGAN					
(Alcona, Alpena, Cheboygan, Crawford, Iosco, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Oscoda, Otsego, Presque Isle, Roscommon counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	82,100	83,500	82,100	-1.7%	0.0%
Total Employment	73,900	74,200	74,400	0.3%	0.7%
Unemployment	8,200	9,300	7,700	-17.2%	-6.1%
Rate (percent)	10.0	11.1	9.4		

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	<u>Mar-16</u>	<u>Feb-17</u>	<u>Mar-17</u>	% change month	% change year
NORTHWEST LOWER MICHIGAN					
(Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, Wexford counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	146,000	148,500	146,400	-1.4%	0.3%
Total Employment	135,500	137,300	137,000	-0.2%	1.1%
Unemployment	10,500	11,200	9,300	-17.0%	-11.4%
Rate (percent)	7.2	7.5	6.4		

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	<u>Mar-16</u>	<u>Feb-17</u>	<u>Mar-17</u>	% change month	% change year
MICHIGAN (Data in thousands)					
Civilian Labor Force	4,825	4,887	4,869	-0.4%	0.9%
Total Employment	4,568	4,610	4,636	0.6%	1.5%
Unemployment	257	277	233	-15.9%	-9.3%
Rate (percent)	5.3	5.7	4.8		

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(more)

**MICHIGAN COUNTIES RANKED BY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
MARCH 2017**

1	Ottawa County	2.8	43	Marquette County	6.0
2	Washtenaw County	2.8	44	Houghton County	6.2
3	Kent County	3.0	45	St. Clair County	6.2
4	Clinton County	3.4	46	Alpena County	6.2
5	Kalamazoo County	3.5	47	Sanilac County	6.3
6	St. Joseph County	3.5	48	Otsego County	6.4
7	Eaton County	3.7	49	Tuscola County	6.4
8	Allegan County	3.7	50	Mason County	6.4
9	Ionia County	3.7	51	Charlevoix County	6.7
10	Barry County	3.8	52	Missaukee County	6.8
11	Ingham County	3.8	53	Gladwin County	7.0
12	Livingston County	3.9	54	Lapeer County	7.0
13	Oakland County	3.9	55	Gogebic County	7.0
14	Isabella County	4.2	56	Delta County	7.0
15	Cass County	4.4	57	Luce County	7.2
16	Hillsdale County	4.4	58	Manistee County	7.4
17	Jackson County	4.4	59	Crawford County	7.5
18	Lenawee County	4.5	60	Oscoda County	7.6
19	Branch County	4.5	61	Antrim County	7.7
20	Calhoun County	4.5	62	Benzie County	7.9
21	Midland County	4.6	63	Iron County	7.9
22	Monroe County	4.6	64	Clare County	8.0
23	Berrien County	4.6	65	Alcona County	8.1
24	Grand Traverse County	4.7	66	Lake County	8.1
25	Muskegon County	4.9	67	Kalkaska County	8.3
26	Macomb County	5.0	68	Emmet County	8.6
27	Montcalm County	5.0	69	Iosco County	8.6
28	Newaygo County	5.0	70	Baraga County	8.7
29	Shiawassee County	5.1	71	Oceana County	8.7
30	Dickinson County	5.2	72	Chippewa County	8.9
31	Saginaw County	5.3	73	Ogemaw County	9.0
32	Menominee County	5.4	74	Arenac County	9.5
33	Gratiot county	5.4	75	Ontonagon County	9.6
34	Genesee County	5.4	76	Alger County	9.7
35	Huron County	5.5	77	Keweenaw County	9.7
36	Mecosta County	5.5	78	Roscommon County	9.9
37	Bay County	5.5	79	Schoolcraft County	11.3
38	Wexford County	5.6	80	Montmorency County	12.1
39	Van Buren County	5.8	81	Presque Isle County	12.2
40	Leelanau County	5.9	82	Cheboygan County	17.1
41	Osceola County	5.9	83	Mackinac County	20.6
42	Wayne County	6.0			

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